

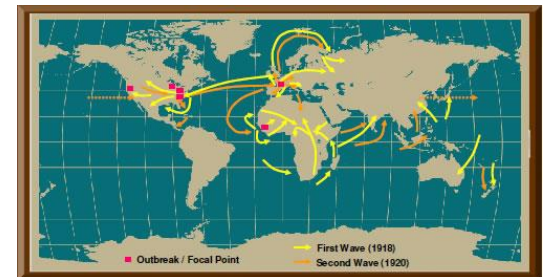
The Pandemic Flu of 1918



A medical holocaust

Pandemic Flu

- ∞ Pandemics happen every 10-50 years
- ∞ The Pandemic Flu that occurred in 1918 was so devastating it was called has been called a “medical holocaust”
- ∞ Why:
 - Worldwide
 - Highly contagious
 - More people died than from “normal flu”



Pandemic Flu

☞ We were in the middle of WW1 (1914-1918)

☞ Rumors:

- A German U-Boat released a toxic cloud of gas.
- It was from poison gas
- From burning too much coal



Pandemic Flu

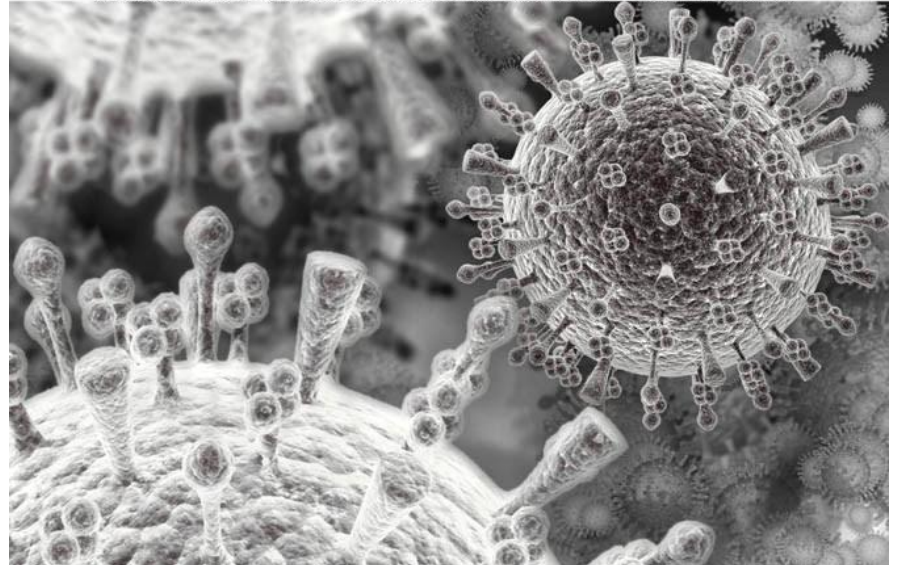
- ✂ It was a killer of the “young and fit: (ages = 15-40)
 - Why? (find out and I’ll give you a HW pass by the end of the week)
- ✂ Signs and Symptoms:
 - Usual: headache, back pain, fever, cough, congestion
 - Unusual: Nosebleed



Pandemic Flu

- What is the pathogen causing the flu?
 - Many thought it was a bacteria, but under a microscope it could not be seen.

Image of Avian flu virus (H5N1) which is similar to Swine flu virus (H1N1)



Pandemic Flu

⌘ While we tried to figure out what the pathogen was these things helped:

- Tracking who was sick
- Holding private funerals
- Closing schools, churches, and theatres
- Bans on public gatherings

INFLUENZA
FREQUENTLY COMPLICATED WITH
PNEUMONIA
IS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME THROUGHOUT AMERICA.
THIS THEATRE IS CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.
YOU MUST DO THE SAME
IF YOU HAVE A COLD AND ARE COUGHING AND
SNEEZING. DO NOT ENTER THIS THEATRE
GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL

Coughing, Sneezing or Spitting Will Not Be Permitted In The Theatre. In case you must cough or Sneeze, do so in your own handkerchief, and if the Coughing or Sneezing Persists Leave The Theatre At Once.

This Theatre has agreed to co-operate with the Department Of Health in disseminating the truth about Influenza, and thus serve a great educational purpose.

**HELP US TO KEEP CHICAGO THE
HEALTHIEST CITY IN THE WORLD**
JOHN DILL ROBERTSON
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

Pandemic Flu

- ✎ Eventually we discovered it was a flu virus (that was not known at first)
- ✎ We don't know much else about it because no one saved the pathogen

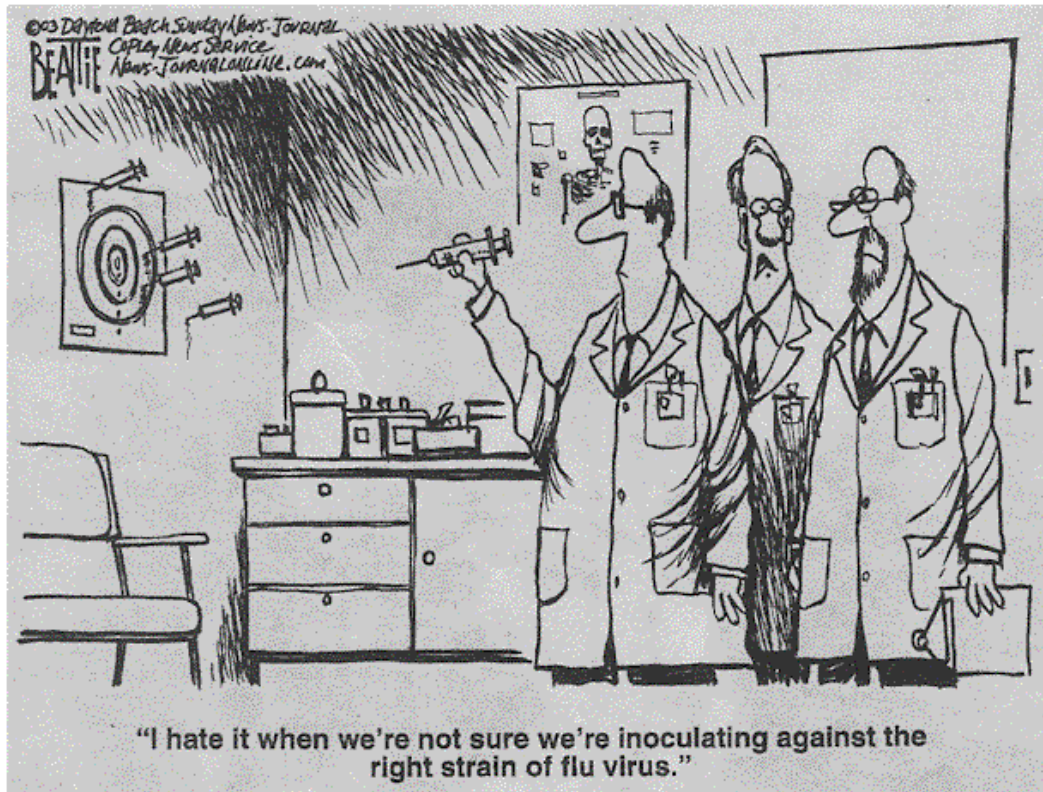


- ✎ There are samples of lung tissue from people who died...

Pandemic Flu (2014)

∞ Treatment and prevention for the future:

- Vaccinations = helpful
- Difficult to predict which vaccine to make...



Pandemic Flu

Future risks:

- All flu types can infect birds
- In 1997 a boy died from a virus similar to the one that caused pandemic flu
- All chickens killed, but virus still spread

Future risks: Could a bird flu virus be the next flu of 1918?



Pandemic Flu

Yes

- ✎ Bird Flu can affect humans
- ✎ It is possible for bird flu to spread from human to human
- ✎ ...just a matter of time, before the next bird flu virus

No

- ✎ If it could have, it would have
- ✎ Conditions are not the same as 1918